

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FOR U.S. DEL TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC

SUBJECT: 34TH UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: PROPOSED
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (ITEM 22)

REFS: A. GENEVA 03414; B. STATE 27716; C. HEWITT-
TAUBENFELD TELECON

1. PREFERENCES OF YEAR OF CHILD EXPERTS REMAIN STRONGLY
OPPOSED TO BECOMING COMMITTED TO ANY SPECIFIC DRAFT
CONVENTION NOW ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD BEFORE THE
INFORMATION TO BE GATHERED DURING 1979 IS ANALYZED.
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DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO PRESS FOR
ANY SUCH CONVENTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE THIRTY-FOURTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY. AS PER TELECON (REF C), DELEGATION
SHOULD ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE EXPECTED CANADIAN AMENDMENTS
TO SUBSTANTIALLY ELONGATE THE SUGGESTED SCHEDULE. IF
CANADIANS DO NOT OFFER SUCH AMENDMENTS, U.S. DELEGATION
SHOULD DO SO.

2. IN REFTTEL A, THE FIRST OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH OF THE POLISH DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN PLACE OF THE WORDS "AS PRESENTED IN THE DRAFT ... " SUBSTITUTE THE WORDS "ALONG THE LINES OF THE DRAFT."

3. AS TO THE POLISH DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ITSELF, THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH OBLIGATIONS ARE SO SWEEPING AND SO CLEARLY UNFEASIBLE THAT THEY COULD ONLY BE REGARDED AS PERMANENTLY ASPIRATIONAL, INDEED UTOPIAN. WE COULD SUGGEST DETAILED CRITICISM. HOWEVER WE PREFER NOT TO HAVE THIS DRAFT AS THE BASIC WORKING DOCUMENT AT ALL. DELEGATION SHOULD WORK TO ACHIEVE THIS.

4. ONE GOOD POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO AMEND THE OPERATIVE SECTION OF THE DRAFT TO CALL ON THE SUB-COMMISSION TO PREPARE AN APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENT ON THE SUBJECT. THIS COULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INFORMATION AND DATA COLLECTED DURING THE YEAR OF THE CHILD AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

5. COMMENT: IF THAT INSTRUMENT IS LIKELY TO TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF SWEEPING GENERALITIES, LIKE THE POLISH DRAFT, WE WOULD STRONGLY PREFER IT TO BE IN THE FORM OF A STATEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES, AS IN THE DRAFT GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON PERSONS BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK. END COMMENT.

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6. DELEGATION'S REACTION SOLICITED.

7. IF RESOLUTION IS AMENDED ALONG ABOVE LINES OR ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY CANADIANS DELEGATION MAY VOTE YES. OTHERWISE, DELEGATION SHOULD ABSTAIN WITH THE CANADIANS. VANCE

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